

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 12 are independent.

All claims stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 6,377,987, issued to James E. Kracht on February 4, 2003 (hereafter "Kracht") in view of US Patent Number 6,976,087, issued to Ronald L. Westfall *et al.* on December 13, 2005 (hereafter "Westfall") and in view of the *Microsoft Computer Dictionary* (hereafter "Microsoft").

The arguments asserted by the Applicants in the "Response to Final Office Action" filed with the USPTO on May 24, 2006, are hereby re-asserted and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kracht in view of Westfall and Microsoft. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-13 in the present Office Action hinges entirely upon the premise that the Applicants "endstation" is equivalent to Westfall's "endpoint". Applicants continue in our assertion that this equation is not correct; however, in order to move the prosecution of the case forward to issuance, Applicants have changed the word "endstation" in claims 1, 11, and 12 to "non-connecting network device". Support for this change can be found at paragraph [043] of the present application.

The Westfall endpoint router is very different from the Applicant's "non-connecting network device". A router, by definition, is a device used to connect to other devices. Westfall's endpoint routers, as has been described in the past several Responses, are connecting devices, and are the opposite of a "non-connecting network device." Therefore, this element of claims 1-8 and 10-13 is missing from the combination of Kracht, Westfall, and Microsoft, and is not obvious. Applicant's request that the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The pending claims define subject matter that is not described by the combination of Kracht with Westfall and Microsoft. The application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw her rejections, and promptly allow this patent application to issue.

The commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 503650 for any fees associated herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.A. Baker, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

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